

Operational Status

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Bureau of Meteorology (BOM): Perth

WASTAC facilities consist of 2.4m antenna and antenna controller at Curtin University of Technology, ingest and display computers with hard disk storage and tape archive facilities, located at the Bureau of Meteorology(BOM) premises at 1100 Hay Street, West Perth. A low speed uni-directional microwave link connects the antenna to the ingest computers. A high speed microwave communications system was installed in June 1996 to allow the transmission of raw and processed satellite data between the Leeuwin Centre, Curtin University, and the WA office of the BOM.

Colour and grey scale quicklook pictures are produced at the WA Satellite Remote Sensing Services(SRSS) in near realtime for archive, indexing and distribution and are available on the WWW(World Wide Web). The raw data archive is produced on 4GB DAT tape and a duplicate copy is currently produced for a national NOAA data archive program that is coordinated by CSIRO Office of Space Science and Applications(COSSA) in Canberra.

The AVHRR ingest and display system, developed and installed by the Bureau of Meteorology in September 1996, consists of two HP UNIX workstations, one provided by WASTAC and the other by BOM. All software systems were upgraded late in 1999 to ensure continuous operation into the year 2000.

The ingest program runs on both workstations providing display, processing and backup facilities. The TOVS data, a subset of AVHRR, is automatically sent to the Bureau of Meteorology in Melbourne so that atmospheric temperature retrievals can be included in the global numerical weather prediction models. Sea surface temperatures (SST) are being produced by the BOM and DOLA. DOLA is able to produce vegetation maps and monitor fire scars in near realtime. NOAA and SeaWiFS archive information is posted to DOLA's World Wide Web page.

Equipment failures during the year resulted in the loss of 2 days of data. Due to the dedicated efforts of DOLA and BOM staff, a total of 5912 passes were recorded for the year.

DOLA is currently holding the archive on 8mm exabyte and on DAT tapes.

Orders for digital data can be provided on 8mm data tape, DAT tape, CD-ROM or 6250/1600bpi magnetic tape in raw format.

Future Directions

A proposal is being prepared that will provide another antenna and reception system allowing access to X band and other data streams as well as providing a backup NOAA reception facility.